

**Public Health**

1st Floor Main Building  
County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4QL  
(01392) 386382

May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Measuring the height and weight of children in Reception Year and Year 6**

Each year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. We collect this information as it helps the Public Health team identify trends and helps us plan services to support families and children. Public Health England has a [leaflet](#) which describes the programme.

**How your school is taking part**

Your child's class will be taking part in the programme, which is running between the May and July this year. The measuring is carried out by Devon County Council's trained School Nursing service. Children are measured fully clothed, in a private space away from other pupils. The programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures. This includes robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and equipment used to measure your child as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

**What happens with the information?**

All information and results are treated confidentially, and your child's measurements will not be given to your child, to school staff or other children. The information collected from schools will be gathered and held securely by Devon County Council. If you would like to know more about how data is stored and used please see the privacy notice via the link here <http://devon.cc/privacy> and information overleaf.

**What information we collect**

- your child's date of measurement, sex and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category
- if your child was previously measured as part of the NCMP, their name, date of birth and NHS number are used to link your child's measurements from Reception and Year 6. Other data sets may also be linked to help better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing. This may include your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had.
- your child's ethnicity and address are used to help understand some of the reasons for the difference and changes in child weight across England

**How the data is used**

The information collected about your child will be sent to NHS Digital; it is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care to monitor and improve the care provided to people across England. NHS Digital will also share this information with Public Health England but in a de-personalised form only. This means Public Health England will not be able to identify your child.

Data may be used by NHS Digital and Public Health England to:

- Better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI)
- Help with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area

NHS Digital may share de-personalised information with other organisations, such as universities, to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify your child, and NHS Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts. **No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.**

#### **What happens after the measurement?**

We will only contact you if your child's measurements are below or above a specific range. Your child's School Nurse can also provide support and can be contacted via your school or Devon County Council website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health/public-health-nursing>. If we don't contact you but would like to talk to a School Nurse, then please get in touch.

If you have any comments, compliments or complaints on the service provided, or would like to know your child's measurements please email [Rachel.humphries@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.humphries@devon.gov.uk) in the Devon County Council Public Health team or call (01392) 386382.

#### **What to do if you don't want your child weighed and measured**

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. If you do not wish your child to take part, please complete the online form here <http://devon.cc/ncmp> and we will let the School Nursing service know before the programme starts. Children will not be made to participate if they do not wish to.

Thank you for your co-operation and help,

Best wishes



**Steve Brown**  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Devon County Council**

Further information about the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme>

Information and fun activities for families can be found at:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>